

Rare sighting
of pelican
at local bird
sanctuary

3



Beware of
\$5 fakes
There may be
bad bills circulating
in town

4



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The Niagara Advance

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Thursday, December 1, 2011

Decorated for the holiday



Rebecca Pascoe, manager and curator at the 200-year-old McFarland House on the Niagara Parkway, fusses with a Christmas table setting. There will be a Christmas open house this weekend, and the historic house will be on the Rotary Holiday House Tour. For more information see page 15.

PENNY COLES Niagara Advance

Stroll benefits local girl

➤ Annual event to raise money for computer equipment to help visually-impaired Parliament Oak student

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

Julia Janzen hasn't missed a Candlelight Stroll through the streets of the Old Town with her family, and although she admits she can't remember them all, she really loved the ones she does remember. "I really like all the songs we sing," she says, "and being there with my family. It makes me feel good."

It's an event her family wouldn't miss.

"It's a huge part of our family Christmas," says her mother, Krista.

"We have the Trisha Romance stroll painting in our living room. It's a very special evening for us."

Julia says she is excited and honoured to be leading this year's stroll in a horse-drawn carriage, with her brother and two sisters, parents and both sets of grandparents along to share the event.

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11

See Page 2

Proceeds will help young girl read Braille

From Page 1

"This is huge for our family. We're all very excited," says Krista.

"It makes me feel very special," adds Julia.

To make it even more special, this year's proceeds from the stroll will go to help the Grade 5 Parliament Oak student who loves to read, but has been blind from birth.

At school, where she has chosen to take the French

Immersion program, she has a computer that turns words into Braille so that she can read them on an attached computer screen, or print them out.

She would love to have that same opportunity at home, but the equipment that she would need is expensive.

Her family has a computer at home, but Julia says she gets little time on it, and when she does get to check her emails, facebook or she does research on the internet, she

must listen to a voice-over program. She's a bright girl, a fast reader and a good student who would like to have a lap top of her own and the two pieces of equipment that would make it possible for her to read in Braille. An embosser allows text to be printed out in Braille, and a piece of equipment called a refresher transforms what the computer mouse is reading to Braille and allows Julia to read it on a device similar to a keyboard.

The proceeds of this year's stroll, usually around \$5,000, will help pay for the equipment Julia needs to read, including her own lap top so she doesn't have to wait for her siblings to give her computer time.

"Of course the financial help will be a real blessing," says Krista.

"But I'm really grateful that Julia has been asked to lead the stroll and have her special moment in time."

Niagara-on-the-Lake's



PENNY COLES Niagara Advance

Parliament Oak student Julia Janzen will lead the Candlelight Stroll this year, with proceeds to help pay for computer equipment to help her read while on the computer. She hopes to have a lap top and equipment that mirrors the system she has at school, where she is aided by Christine Bittner.

Merry Christmas From AAA Steam Carpet Cleaning

Christmas is almost upon us, and in a few more days we will all be having family, friends and co-workers over during the season. So why not get those tired and soiled carpets cleaned? A spill in the middle of the room, a dark traffic pattern right to the front door, or those couple of pet accidents, all these are things you don't want to greet your guests this Holiday, so give your local professionals AAA Carpet Cleaning a call before they arrive. Now I know one of your concerns is Murphy's law #112 - if you get your carpets cleaned prior to a party, one of your guests WILL spill something!!! Well if you have us protect your carpets and/or upholstery we will return within 30 days of your cleaning and touch any of those accidents absolutely FREE!! Christmas is always hard on the pocket book so we have put together some of our best MONEY saving specials as our gift to you.

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Annual Candlelight Stroll, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, takes place Friday Dec. 2, with caroling from the Court House steps beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The evening begins with the Town Crier gathering everyone together by the Courthouse on Queen Street. Debbie Whitehouse will sing from the Court House steps, joined by the Salvation Army

Band. Candles with cups will be sold for \$3, or two for \$5.

The stroll route will be alive with entertainment from choirs and musical entertainers. A Christmas wagon will be available for donations of non-perishable goods for Newark Neighbours.

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Rare white pelican seeks sanctuary on small pond in NOTL

Bird-lover's pond providing temporary resting spot for migrating bird.

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

In the week since a white pelican chose his pond as a resting place, bird-lover Jack Custers has enjoyed the sight from his

around the property—he watches from the window, feeling helpless.

He assumes the pelican was traveling with one of four colonies from Northern Ontario, got blown off-course and found his backyard pond last Thursday.

"I'm sure once the weather turns colder he'll leave," he says.

At 71, Custers has been struggling both financially and physically to look after the bird sanctuary he has created. In addition to the pond, stocked with blue gill and crappies, which

His brother has been able to spend some time greeting people, showing them the trailer and the donation box, which helps pay for bird seed.

The white pelican is one of the largest birds in North America, with a three-metre wing span, a large yellow-orange bill and throat pouch, and white plumage, with just a bit of black on its wing tips.

Pelicans, Custers explained, nest in colonies, and there are only four in Ontario—one on Lake Nipigon, one in Lake of the Woods Provincial Park; one on an island in James Bay and one near Thunder Bay. They migrate for the winter along the Pacific coast or the Gulf of Mexico.

Experts who have come to view the bird say it's

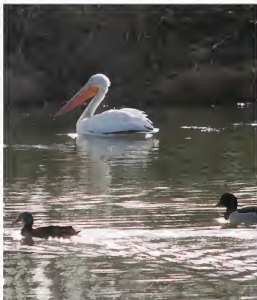
impossible to tell whether it's a male or female or its age. While it looks healthy, they say, there is a possibility that some physical condition is preventing it from continuing its migration. If it hasn't moved on by the time the pond freezes, it will have to go further south for a source of food.

A bird book by two local experts says the white pelican has been seen in

Niagara only four times, the most recent sighting in 2002.

The bird is described by experts as "gregarious," and Custers has seen that it isn't at all afraid of people or easily startled—it seems quite undisturbed by the attention it is receiving.

It is considered to be a threatened species provincially, but not nationally.



PENNY COLES Niagara Advance

The white pelican has been resting at the Concession 7 bird sanctuary for about a week.

favourite chair in the sun-room at the back of his home, which looks out over the water.

After years of trying to attract visitors—both human and avian—to the bird sanctuary he has established on his Concession 7 property, he is also delighted that more than 300 people have stopped to see the pelican.

Unfortunately, recovering from a triple bypass and also struggling with respiratory problems, the retired paper mill worker is unable to show them

attracts night herons, a green-backed heron, ducks, geese and now the pelican, he has a path that meanders through the woods behind his house, several bird houses he keeps stocked with mixed seed, sunflower seeds and niger, and a trailer he has filled with educational material that he hoped would attract school groups.

He finds it frustrating that people are arriving to see the pelican when he is unable to show them around, "but at least they are coming," he says.



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Town staff recommends council approve Randwood development

➤ Of 22 people who spoke at Monday's public information meeting, 15 expressed concerns about parking, noise and landscaping.

Sarah Ferguson
Niagara Advance

Despite opposition of some neighbouring residents, the Town's planning staff is recommending council approve Trisha Romance and Gary Peterson's proposal to rede-

velop the historic 13.3-acre Randwood Estate property.

If it's approved by council, the proposal will allow Romance and Peterson to convert the John Street estate into a 106-room inn with a restaurant, spa, conference centre, artists' centre and events pavilion.

More than 125 people attended Monday's second public meeting, which saw 22 people voice their opinions about Trisha Romance and Gary Peterson's proposal to develop the Randwood Estate.

Out of those 22 people who spoke, 15 people cited their concerns about parking, noise, landscaping and an unfinished site plan.

Greg Hynde, a planner representing the developers, told those who attended



The Petersons have impeccable taste as is evident from their previous endeavors.

— Joyce Brown

the meeting some changes have been made to respond to concerns discussed by residents in September at the first public meeting.

Hynde said these changes include building a swimming pool farther away from the residential area

and reducing the height of the arts studio to one-and-a-half stories.

He also said One Mile Creek would be protected and any trees that are to be removed will be relocated on another party of the estate.

Elizabeth Masson spoke out against the application—she said she collected 31 signatures over the past three weeks from homeowners in her Weatherstone Court neighbourhood who are opposed to the development.

She said she was concerned because there is no finalized site plan for the development.

"I would like to suggest to Town Council that they are putting the cart before the horse if they vote on this



Rob Vaandering

zoning change to a historic site surrounded by residential property and park land before they see the site plan submitted and before the property is designated heri-

tage."

Masson said there is "no guarantee" that the property won't be sold and an "even more grandiose project proposed."

Rob Vaandering, a Christopher Street resident, said parking issues have not been addressed—he said the property requires more than the planned 200 parking spots.

"Consider that the total rooms alone consume 114 spaces. That leaves 86 for the 250-seat events pavilion, the 200-seat restaurant, the two conference centres, the arts centre and spa."

Vaandering added that the parking for 300 possible employees has not been addressed.

Joyce Brown, a Coach Drive resident, spoke in favour of the development—she said it would "greatly benefit the town" by enhancing the appeal of Niagara-on-the-Lake and attracting more people who interested in arts and culture.

Brown also said it would "improve the economy with the creation of over 200 jobs and long term tax revenues."

Brown added that the development would be "a great way to preserve one of the most beautiful historic sites still remaining."

At the time of sale, there were no competitive bids to purchase the Randwood Estate, Brown said.

"The Petersons have impeccable taste as is evident from their previous endeavors."

Brown said the developers are well established and respected members of the community.

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Councillors will discuss Randwood proposal at Monday's committee meeting

From Page 4

Having Romance and Peterson living next door to the project, Brown says "would ensure there would be no excessive noise and as little as possible disruption to the neighborhood."

Jim Ryan, a Christopher Street resident, said he wasn't opposed to the development - he suggested changes could be made that would satisfy residents and the developers.

Ryan said the Devonian House, which is expected to add eight additional rooms, keep its current

zoning and not change to commercial.

Ryan also suggested the events pavilion with enough room for 250 people be removed from the plan. The hotel and restaurant have enough space to accommodate large events such as weddings, or other parties and neighbouring residents wouldn't be disrupted by noise, he suggested.

This (events) facility will bring constant disruption and the hotel can accommodate these events."

Ryan's final suggestion was to have strict guidelines put in place to finalize

a site plan for the development.

Leah Wallace, heritage planner, said the developers have a preliminary site plan and it can't be finalized until the zoning changes to the property are approved by council.

"It's really important for people to know the details of the process."

She said having a site plan before approving the zoning changes is "putting the horse before the cart."

If the development is approved by council, Wallace said, a finalized site plan will be reviewed by Town staff.

The decision to approve

the staff recommendation to the zoning changes for

Randwood Estate will be discussed at the committee-of-the-whole meeting Monday.

Man armed with knife robs gas bar

Police are looking for a man who robbed Gales Gas Bar in Virgil armed with an exacto knife.

Monday, at about 10 p.m., a man presented the knife, demanded money, was given some cash and then took off on foot.

The suspect is 6 foot two inches with a skinny build, and was wearing a black or dark ski mask over his face, a green camouflage hooded sweat shirt or jacket and black gloves.

Information on crimes can be submitted anonymously using Crime Stoppers of Niagara by calling

1-800-222-8477, online at www.niagaratips.com or text 274637, keyword 'Niagara', then your tip.

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tees that you will remain anonymous. You may receive a cash reward up to \$2,000 if the information leads to an arrest.



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Thursday December 8/11	4-6pm	Centennial Arena Lobby
Saturday December 10/11	3-6pm	MCU Arena Lobby
Thursday December 15/11	4-6pm	Centennial Arena Lobby
Saturday December 17/11	3-6pm	MCU Arena Lobby

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our editorial

Enjoy the beauty of the season

It's time for the Candlelight Stroll, the Rotary Holiday House Tour, and all the lovely Christmas events we enjoy here in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The holiday season is officially underway.

The stroll is one of the most magical, enchanting events, so perfectly suited to the beautiful streets of our Old Town. Organized now by the Chamber of Commerce, the idea originated more than two decades ago with a local man, Arthur Nieuworp. He had witnessed torches being passed across the country leading up to the 1988 winter Olympics in Calgary, and designed a community event that would begin with the sharing of a flame to celebrate the wonder of NOTL at Christmas.

There is no commercialism—the streets are lined with local church choirs and young groups offering traditional Christmas music, while people of all ages, visitors to the area, locals, families and friends sing along, their faces glowing from the flame of the candle and the spirit of the season.

Arthur passed away a little more than a decade ago, but his vision lives on.

The money from that first stroll was donated to a little girl with cystic fibro-

sis, thus the birth of the tradition for directing the funds from the sale of candles to a young person who can be helped in some way.

This year, a delightful, bright, visually-impaired young girl who loves to read will receive a computer system that translates words into braille for her to read and write.

The event is a great launch to the Christmas season in town, with many others to enjoy between now and the New Year—the Rotary choral concert, the service club events and firefighters' turkey rolls, and the best Christmas parade in the province. All are organized by volunteers, and many are fundraisers which give back to the community, including minor sports, local schools, and community projects.

Some of these events give us a chance to see our town through the eyes of our visitors, and remind us of how blessed we are to live and work in such a beautiful and generous community. All are an opportunity to reconnect with friends and neighbours, and share the joy of the Christmas season.

This is one of the best times of year to experience our town—don't miss out.

letters to the editor

Stone Road route would not work for senior

In relation to the current proposal that there will be a shuttle bus running up and down Niagara Stone Road, instead of providing door-to-door service, I would like to present my opinion.

I am a senior who does not and never has driven a car.

Therefore, I totally rely on the shuttle bus to take me to my doctor, my dentist, grocery shopping, to dine in my favourite restaurant and the Shaw Festival theatres for plays during the summer and movies during the winter.

The proposed route for the bus would result for me to use it and I suspect very few other seniors in this town.

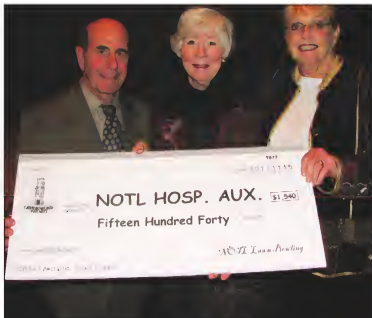
What is wrong with the members of Town council? Is it that they are not personally affected by the lack of transportation in this town and therefore it's not a priority to them?

If the current price of tickets is not sufficient to make the service viable, then raise the price.

I feel sure that seniors would pay more in order to have a reliable service.

Joan Peter

Bowlers give back



PENNY COLES Niagara Advance

Members of the NOTL Lawn Bowling Club like to give back to their community, and as they wrapped up this season with their annual general meeting at the new community centre they presented a cheque to Laurie Haley of the NOTL Hospital Auxiliary, the money was raised at a tournament organized by Bonnie Daw in honour of her parents, who loved their lawn bowling, she said. Also presenting the cheque is Ray Pettit. The donation which was to be rounded to \$1,600, will purchase slings which help hospital staff transfer patients safely, said Harley.

Newark says thanks for donations

➤ Please register if you need help at Christmas



Brenda Shah
Newark Neighbours

We have some thank you's we would like to acknowledge: to Chateau Gardens for three large boxes of food from their food drive, Xi Eta Chi (chapter of Beta Sigma Phi) for their donation of two boxes of toys and a gift card, and to the Horticulture Society for their donation of food and a cheque from their 50/50 draw. Thanks to all, we really appreciate your support.

Registration for Christmas Dinners is ongo-

ing and the deadline for registering is Dec. 9. Please come in person to register with the necessary information. Pick-up for the Christmas dinners will be on Wednesday Dec. 21 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

If possible, we would appreciate if all donations pertaining to Christmas (toys, turkeys, Christmas goodies, etc.) be dropped off by Dec. 16 to give us time to sort out and get the dinners ready for the families to pick up on Dec. 21.

We will be closed to shoppers and shopping from Dec. 12 to Dec. 26, will open on Dec. 27, for that day only and close again until Jan. 2, however staff will be here to accept donations and drop-offs.

Donations can be dropped off at our John Street barn.

Our hours of operation are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between 9:30 a.m. & 2 p.m. We can be reached at 905 468-3519.

letters to the editor

Transit problems not solved yet

I am amazed at the lack of understanding the Town council has as to the needs of Niagara-on-the-Lake where it pertains to transportation for the townspeople.

I have my doubts whether they have ever bothered to go out and ask the citizens as to what they want and what is presently being supplied. I am going to make the mistake of assuming they are happy with the present service.

The Town can find thousands of dollars for bicycle paths, which the ardent cyclists use to use, they would rather clog up the roadways making it difficult for automobile traffic than use the paths and money for a splash pad that I can't see being used by anyone 50 to 90 years-old, the taxpayer.

When a suggestion of any form of transportation is mentioned, we have the public works department, David Kuczerka coming out with an

statement of running a bus from Mississauga Street and Queen or the Court House to connect to the shuttle from the fort to the Court House to the Niagara College campus at Glendale with stops in Virgil on the hour.

Here is another assumption that the bus will be large enough to carry 75 passengers and end up making this run empty similar to the regional bus going from St. Catharines to Niagara Falls, which I could never understand.

Presently, what is being offered is a door to destination service. In other words, a subsidized taxi service to pick up the client at their home and drives them to either Valu-mart Grocery Stores, the medical centre, the NTL hospital, a modification care centre or hospital in St. Catharines or Niagara Falls, the rail or bus stations, the hair dressers within NTL and the students to and from school, the community centre or the library.

Quite often when we pick up a client with groceries we end up helping them with their groceries in the kitchen and we also help

them in and out of the van.

The citizens of NTL get a personalized service which no bus driver or ordinary taxi driver supplies or is prepared to supply.

The other area of service is filling the needs of people in wheelchairs who also need to go to the doctors or hospitals or are just going to the local restaurants for lunch with friends and family, or taking a patient for dialysis at 7 a.m. in the morning.

The evenings are usually spent supplying taxi service for the many bed and breakfasts, inns and hotels, taking their tourist guests to the wineries and restaurants followed up with a trip to the casino in Niagara Falls usually around 11 p.m.

All of the above is being done one day with the use of two vans, not buses. I know this because I am one of the two or three drivers providing this service. We also cover Queenston and St. Catharines which is more than what Mr. Kuczerka is willing to offer.

Neel Middleton

Thanks to Shaw and all those who bring us great feature films and documentaries

Series saves movie buffs from travelling to see the best films.

The 7th annual Festival Film Series line-up has been announced and there is no better way to spend a chilly winter afternoon than enjoying a good movie in the Shaw Festival Theatre.

This year's festival will kick off its season with a screening of Woody Allen's *Midnight in Paris*, this Saturday at 3 p.m.

Eight feature films have been confirmed and four additional titles have yet to be decided.

And the film series also takes an educational approach, showing a six-film documentary series beginning Jan. 6.

These documentaries



Sarah Ferguson
Reporter's Notebook

will be held on Fridays at 5:30 p.m. at the Festival Theatre.

Working as a reporter in Niagara-on-the-Lake, I have learned that art and culture are an important part of this community. The Shaw Festival Film Series adds another layer to the community, which is already rich in culture.

On a personal note, I am

thrilled to have the film series here in NTL. In past years, I've enjoyed a similar film series hosted by Brock University in St. Catharines.

Each Wednesday for most of my post-secondary career I would walk with my significant other, Paul, in the rain or snow to the movie theatre for the chance to watch something I wouldn't normally have the chance to see.

My love of movies came from I would walk with my significant other, Paul, in the rain or snow to the movie theatre for the chance to watch something I wouldn't normally have the chance to see. My love of movies came from I would walk with my significant other, Paul, in the rain or snow to the movie theatre for the chance to watch something I wouldn't normally have the chance to see.

I've discovered that romance stories aren't always cheesy, and not every comedy is ridiculous.

Don't miss December events, including farewell

Open house also a chance to welcome local library's new CEO.

December is going to be a very busy month for the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library. It features several children's programs, a float in the Santa Claus parade, and a CEO Open House on Dec. 11 from 2 to 4 p.m.

To start off the month, Santa will personally visit the library on Saturday morning, Dec. 3 at 10:30 a.m. Children of all ages are invited.

What we have been told is that Santa will share stories about his reindeer, the elves and life at the North Pole. Families are encouraged to bring on one non-perishable food item to donate to Newark Neighbours.

Then, on Wednesday, Dec. 7, at 6:30 p.m., there will be a special "Christmas Cookies 'n' Creations" workshop for children aged eight and up, followed a few days later by the NTL annual Santa Claus parade. Starting at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10, the library will have a



Jim Crux
the library

very colourful float based on a "Getting Ready for Christmas" theme and a display of Santa Claus' workshop.

The CEO Open House will be an opportunity to say goodbye to me, as well as to welcome the next CEO, Cathy Simpson, who brings a great deal of knowledge and experience to the position.

She has worked in the reference department in the Niagara Falls Public Library, as well as in her current capacity as Deputy CEO of the Lincoln Public Library System.

As many already know, I

will be retiring at the end of December. As this is my last column, I would like to take this opportunity to thank patrons, members of the Library Board, the library's dedicated staff and everyone at the Town, for making my tenure such a productive and positive experience.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library Board member, I didn't also acknowledge the work and vision of past Library CEOs, who paved the way forward, as well as the Niagara Advance's Penny Coles for providing this space on a regular basis.

As Terry Flynn, the Library Board Chair said recently: "The regular library columns have provided a means of letting the public know about the library's new cataloguing system, the expansion of WiFi and the public computer lab, the upgrading of the computer lab and all the parking and other challenges of the integration with the new Community Centre."

For more details on Ms. Simpson, advance registration and the fees for the children's New Year's Eve Party on Friday, Dec. 30, visit the library's website at notpubliclibrary.org.

them.

Films, like the ones shown at the Shaw, inspire conversation and are not instantly forgotten when movie-goers leave the theatres.

The Shaw Festival Film Series also gives an opportunity for people to see movies, which in most cases only play in larger cities.

I can't begin to count the times I've wanted to hop a bus to Toronto just to catch a flick because it wasn't playing anywhere near here. I've actually committed to the adventure to travel to the city to watch a movie once or twice.

Thank you to the Shaw Festival Film series and to other groups that partner with the Toronto International Film Festival to give those of us who love a good movie—a really good movie—the opportunity to see films that other-

wise wouldn't play on the screens in smaller communities like Niagara-on-the-Lake.

And thanks for saving me the expensive trip to Toronto.

Tickets to see a show are \$11 per person and there is a 12-film pass available for the movie buffs out there.

Advance tickets are available and same-day tickets can be purchased at the Shaw Festival Box Office or by calling 905-468-2172. Visit www.news-shawfest.com for a list of movies, documentaries and dates.

And do not miss Jane Eyre, which is showing on Jan. 7—it was a fantastic adaptation of Charlotte Brontë's novel. It would be a great time to see it if they're fans of the author, or if they love a good old-fashioned Victorian romance story.

Former NDSS teacher talks about impact of charges

Four sexual assault charges dropped, but life will never be the same for popular French teacher.

Penny Colles
Niagara Advance

It was two years ago that popular French teacher Jask Ramburn had his world turned upside down.

After retiring from Niagara District Secondary School—

he had been teaching for 47 years, and had made 21 trips overseas and five to Quebec with his NDSS students—the St. Catharines husband and father of two adult sons decided to take a job at a Toronto private school.

After eight years of teaching and staying in Toronto three nights a week, he was charged with four counts of sexual assault. The charges did not involve a student or his position as a teacher, he said. But the case was put under a publication ban, so although the charges were eventually dropped last

June, before being heard in court, he can't speak of the details. At the time he was happy to have an end to the ordeal, he said, but he didn't get his day in court to tell his side and his innocence was never proven, nor was it reported in the press as the charges had been.

He has now retired for good—he hasn't taught since the day of his arrest and his life became a living nightmare.

He is speaking out now to put the record straight and talk about how the false accusations, and the resulting publicity, sent his world

crumbling.

"I could not think rationally, speak coherently, sleep peacefully, taste food or relate with my family and friends. Without exaggeration, my entire being went numb. I was in a strange world of my own at the brink of disaster," he says, adding that he contemplated suicide.

"The damage was so devastating and irreparable that I believed the remainder of my life was going to be a carnage."

His sons and their wives—he refers to them as his daughters—are his bless-

ings, God's gift to him, he says. They were devastated—there to support him as he was led into the court in handcuffs to face the charges, he witnessed the tears on the faces of his sons.

"When the charges were read out loud, my eldest son lowered his head and lost it. I have never seen tears on the face of this man before, a tall and resilient tower of strength . . . they were all overwhelmed with pain, helplessness and disbelief."

In the days and months of darkness that followed, he retained a lawyer, his sons and their wives took time

off work to deal with the stress and emotional trauma they were going through—and thanks to the internet and the "global village" effect, even relatives 7,000 miles away in India stopped answering their phones and took time off work to avoid questions about the allegations.

He became withdrawn, although he received gratifying support from friends, neighbours, former students and principals, he says.

See page 9

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Virgil

FRI., DEC. 2ND, 2011
8:00 PM



ST. DAVIDS

MON., DEC. 5TH, 2011
7:00 PM



Queenston

FRI., DEC. 9TH, 2011
7:00 PM

ALL PROCEEDS TO MINOR SPORTS & COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Former students offered support

From Page 8

A man who had had been active all his life, and loved the outdoors, Ramburn said he continued taking his daily walks, and did so with his head held high. A former marathon runner, the exercise and being outdoors gave him renewed faith, strength and resilience, he said.

However, the ordeal had its toll on his mental state, and it was the thought of his children that stopped him from taking his life, he said.

He takes solace still in the many offers he had of support from friends, neighbours, colleagues and students who offered to serve as character witnesses — many that he left it up to his lawyer to narrow down the list. One former student, now a doctor, was willing to

cancel her appointments and travel from Niagara-on-the-Lake to Toronto to take the stand on his behalf.

In the end, that wasn't necessary, but two years later "I still have a big hole in my heart. It feels like I have aged 10 years."

His relationship with his wife has suffered, and he sees only close friends and his sons. He is grateful that he can read for hours at a time, something he was never able to do while he was teaching, and he enjoys "mother nature" recharging his batteries outdoors for a few hours every day.

Although the 19 months between the charges and having them dropped were "pure purgatory," today, at 70, he says he feels like he's been given a new lease on life, grateful to God, family and a few close



Jask Ramburn

friends, and for "every little blessing that comes my way. Life is so unpredictable and fragile, so I am thankful for every single day that I spend without an upheaval. I have learned that nothing or nobody in my life is to be taken for granted today because there is no assurance they will even be there for me tomorrow."

The
Spirit of
Giving



Donate Mittens

at the NOTL Christmas Parade
Saturday December 10th

Niagara Nursery School & Child Care Centre is thankful for the support and generous contributions we have received from the community. We will be participating in the Christmas Parade and will be collecting mittens, gloves, hats, toques and scarves from street side parade watchers. All items will be donated to, *Gillian's Place*, a shelter that supports abused women and their children to take these necessary first steps towards their journey to a safe and happier life.

Happy Holidays



The Town of
Niagara-on-the-Lake
1593 Four Mile Creek Rd., Box 100, Virgil, ON L0S 1T0 905-468-3266 www.notl.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED WINTER 2011/2012 SNOW REMOVAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Council of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has established a program which is designed to connect seniors and/or disabled residents in need of assistance with snow removal with community volunteers willing to assist.

If you wish to volunteer ...

The Town's Public Works Department welcomes volunteers to come forward and provide this service. Your information will be recorded and will be provided by the Municipality to anyone who calls in and qualifies for assistance. Students seeking volunteer hours are encouraged to register with the Town.

If you wish to request service ...

The Town's Public Works Department will be accepting calls from those residents in need, seniors and/or physically challenged residents. Residents who are not seniors will be asked to provide a Doctor's note stating that they are not physically able to shovel snow. The name(s) of a volunteer(s) in the immediate vicinity will be provided to the registrant for direct contact by him/her.

All interested parties are reminded that the Town collects this information under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and for no other purpose or intent, stated or implied, than for the benefit of both service providers (volunteers) and persons requesting their services with respect to the clearing of snow from driveways and walkways.

Mr. E.J. Kucera, M.Sc., P. Eng.
Director of Public Works
905-468-3278



COMMUNITY & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
1593 Four Mile Creek Rd., Box 100, Virgil, ON L0S 1T0 • www.notl.org • 905-468-3266

OPEN HOUSE

29 Plattoff Street - former Community Centre

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is holding an Open House for Community Consultation on the future residential use of the former Community Centre located at 29 Plattoff Street. Plan to attend and provide your input.

OPEN HOUSE DETAILS

Date: December 14, 2011

Time: 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Place: Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
Community Centre - Mori Room
14 Anderson Lane
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario



WRITTEN SUBMISSION

To provide input in writing please send a letter c/o Town Clerk Holly Dowd, 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, P.O. Box 100, Virgil, Ontario, L0S 1T0.

MORE INFORMATION

For further information please contact Barbara Wiens, Principal, at 905-468-3266, extension 243 or bwuens@notl.org. A copy of this notice can be found on the Towns website at www.notl.org.

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake this 1st day of December 2011.

Santa Claus is coming to town

Sarah Ferguson
Niagara Advance

Santa is getting ready to make his way to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Every year, the annual NOTL Christmas Parade features more than 100 floats from schools, businesses, service and clubs — and this year is no dif-

ferent, says organizer Bob Cheriton.

The parade, made possible because of donations from the community and dozens of volunteers, is back on Prideaux Street.

Last year we changed the traditional route for the parade because Prideaux Street was under construction. But, this

year we are going back," says Cheriton.

With the Niagara-on-the-Lake 1812 Bicentennial Committee acting as Grand Marshall, Cheriton says the parade will be bigger and better than ever this year.

The parade features instrumental bands, which includes "a mix of old and new favourites."

Back this year is the Top Hat Band and the Burlington Teen Tour Band, both very popular and among the best bands in Canada, says Cheriton.

The Virgil Volunteer Firefighters will parade in their newly returned home 1953 Bickle Seagrave pumper from Virginia.

See Page 11

What's In My Closet? HANDBAG EXTRAVAGANZA

ADMISSION
Please bring a food item for
Newark Neighbours
(canned goods, christmas candy, etc.)

December 7th & 8th
5:00 to 8:00

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Tues - Fri 9:30 am - 5 pm Sat. 10am-4pm

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SARAH FERGUSON Niagara Advance

Be on the lookout for parade volunteer John Strecker around town. He will be selling buttons for \$2 to support NOTL's annual Christmas Parade.

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Parade will feature "a mix of old and new"

From Page 10

New this year, The Blue Saints Drum & Bugle Corps from Sudbury will perform—The Blue Saints will add a new flavour to the parade—and for the first time ever the parade will feature the Niagara

Regional Police Colour Party, which is made up of officers who attend official functions and community events to represent the service.

Celebrating their inaugural parade in Crossroads the former students of Virgil and Colonel John Butler will come together and parade

for the first time as one school.

The Special Olympics Floor Hockey Chargers who are headed to New York City in January 2012 and Miss Teen Canada, Nakita Kohan from Alberta, will take part in the parade.

For a small-town parade it's something many NOTL

residents look forward to. "It's gigantic," and it has a long-standing reputation as being one of the best in the province, and even the country, says Cheriton.

The 2011 edition of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Christmas Parade is being held Saturday, Dec. 10 starting at 11 a.m.



PENNY COLES Niagara Advance

It's beginning to look a lot like Willowbank. Students from the School of Restoration Arts in Queenston are looking forward to completing their first entry in the NOTL Christmas Parade, which will include a replica of the historic building. Working on the project are students Julianna Riolino, Ashleigh Bell, Doug MacKay, Nik Pleschke, Georgina Manchester and Mike Gregori. Penner's Building Centre donated the lumber and Frank Racioppo some finishing materials. Students will be collecting food and clothing for Newark Neighbours.

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40 Winks deal at benefits Red Roof Retreat

➤ Discounted rooms popular with local residents.

Niagara's Finest Inns will repeat its popular charity event, offering discounted at four local hotels to benefit Red Roof Retreat.

The drastically reduced prices, with rooms beginning at \$40 for the night of Feb. 2, will be offered to locals at The Harbour House Hotel, Charles Inn, Shaw Club Hotel & Spa and the Colonel Butler Best Western, with 100 per cent of the proceeds going to Red Roof Retreat to help provide quality recreational, educational and respite

services to children, youth and young adults with special needs and their families.

Niagara's Finest Inns is accepting 40 Winks reservations with guestroom pricing from \$40 to \$75 a night.

"The money," says Steffanie Bjorgan, who started Red Roof almost a decade ago with her hus-

band Moe, "helps offset operating costs, and purchase needs for the riding barn. We look forward to this event every year, and we are so grateful to Niagara's Finest Inns for their continued support of Red Roof Retreat."

Call 1-800-474-0632 to reserve your room. Rooms will be allocated on a first come first serve basis.



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Peter Gill accepts a cheque for Red Roof Retreat from Sean Simpson of Simpson's Pharmacy. The \$1,000 donation will be matched by philanthropist Arthur Delfan, who promised to match donations to Red Roof by Dec. 31, up to \$10,000. The campaign is going well, but time is running out, says Gill.



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Sun/Holidays: Closed

Teacher honoured by award presentation

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

St. Michael teacher Heidi Polti knew more than a month ago that she was receiving the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence, one of just 26 teachers to be chosen across Canada.

But Friday, with a room full of students, parents, colleagues and dignitaries, she was showered with accolades and presented with her award by MP Rob Nicholson.

But it was student Haleigh Cumiskey who brought tears to the eyes of her former teacher and those on hand to watch the presentation.

"It is my privilege to stand here and talk for a few minutes about a wonderful person, someone I have been so fortunate to have as a part of my life," said Cumiskey.

Polti was her Grade 7

teacher last year, in a portable, where teacher and students "had our own special world. We grew to know and appreciate each other, we laughed, we decorated and most of all we learned."

In addition to learning math, history and geography, said Cumiskey, students demonstrated patience, acceptance and that each had their own special gifts.

"Miss Polti treated us with respect and equality. She has said that she is most comfortable with her students, well, Miss Polti, we were most comfortable out there is our own utopian portable with you too. Students felt safe and secure, and no-one was ever afraid of seeming silly or belittled."

"You created that happy place for us, and I hope you know how much that meant to all of us."

She goes above and beyond the curriculum, and plans fun and effective ways

of teaching, said Cumiskey. "She cares deeply, and puts her heart and soul into what she does, every day. When I think about how my life might look in the future, when I have a job and a child, I hope I can find my calling in life to make a difference, and do something that is meaningful, as Miss Polti has done."

"She is an amazing teacher; I will never forget how

much confidence she gave me in myself."

Cumiskey said she expects to be the mom who will tell her kids about the Grade 7 teacher who meant so much to her.

"Thank you Miss Polti, for being such a strong and positive influence in my education and in my personal life, you are a very special teacher, and also a friend."



Teacher Heidi Polti was honoured at a St. Michael School assembly Friday with an award of excellence presented by MP Rob Nicholson.

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Reservations are recommended. Applicable taxes apply.



Begin holiday season with music

Niagara Star Singers set to hit the stage for two Christmas performances this weekend.

Sarah Ferguson
Niagara Advance

Not even the Grinch could resist holiday cheer spread by these angelic voices — join the Niagara Star Singers as they sing and dance during their Welcome the Holiday concert at the Court House Ballroom this Sunday.

Artistic director Lisa

Cosens Brillion, created the group in October 2008.

Brillion, a talented vocalist who has a background in opera, meets with the Niagara Star Singers — a group of 12 teenagers from the Niagara region and over the river — weekly to rehearse and prepare show choir selections for performances.

The group has been working hard since the end of August to bring holiday music to spread cheer to Niagara-on-the-Lake, says Brillion.

The Niagara Star Singers will perform along side the Queenston Ladies Choir and the show features 16 intri-



Niagara Star Singers is a group of talented and professional teenagers. They are performing in the Welcome the Holidays Christmas concert with the Queenston Ladies Choir at the Court House Ballroom this Sunday. They have two shows, at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

cate pieces of everything from pop and jazz to rock

music. Brillion says everyone will recognize classic favourites such as

"Santa Baby" and "Baby, It's Cold Outside," performed by the Niagara Star Singers, but the group will perform a

medleys of various Christmas songs.

New this year, the Niagara Star Singers have spiced up their sound by adding two male voices to the group.

"The guys add a lower male vocal sound which allows us to do three part harmonies and it adds that extra sound."

Two of the group's girls will also perform a duet ballad dance as the Queenston Ladies Choir performs a medley called the "Nutcracker Jingles."

Their choreographer is Bambi Fez from Miss Bev's Dance Studio in Niagara Falls, NY.

Brillion says she feels fortunate to have a talented group of individuals who are close-knit and love what they are doing.

Proceeds from the evening will be donated to the Resource Association for Teens — a youth centre to help teens in need, says Brillion.

"The idea is for teenagers to give back to teens. The funds will cover basic needs and living expenses for teens in need."

Show times are this Sunday at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and are available at the door or by contacting info@niagarastarsingers.com.



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BEST BUY - CORRECTION NOTICE

NEWSPAPER RETRACTION FOR THE
BEST BUY NOVEMBER 25 CORPORATE FLYER
On the November 25 flyer, page 8, please be advised that the fine print for the iPod touch Trade-in Promotion was advertised with an incorrect trade-in value. The maximum trade-in value is in fact \$30 per transaction, NOT \$40. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our valued customers.



The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PROVISION OF CONTRACTED PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The Town is inviting interested parties to submit proposals for the provision of contracted public transportation services within specific areas of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. The Request for Proposal documentation and terms are available from the Town's Public Works Department at 3 Lorraine Street, Virgil, or by calling 905-468-3278, ext. 275.

Proposals, sealed in an envelope, containing one original and four (4) copies, clearly marked, will be received at the Office of the Town Clerk, Mrs. Holly Dodd, 1953 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, ON. L0S 1T0, until:

2:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME - DECEMBER 26, 2011

Proposals will NOT be accepted and will be returned unopened to the Proprietor. Facsimile (fax) or e-mail responses for the Request for Proposal will also NOT be accepted.

Delivery of Proposals by a courier service shall be the responsibility of the Proprietor, and will be rejected if the envelope/package is delivered to a location other than which is stated in the document and the envelope/package fails to be delivered to the Town Clerk's Office prior to the closing date and time.

The Town reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals, and to waive irregularities and informalities at its discretion.

Mrs. Holly Dodd
Town Clerk
Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

Rempels celebrate 25th with silver

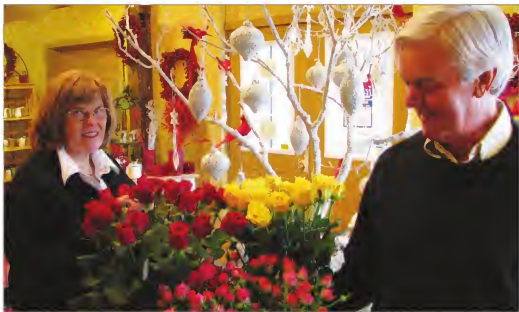
Known best as rose growers, the Rempels are also florists and arrangers with a booming flower shop.

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

Ron Rempel have been married for longer than that—besides, they don't have time to celebrate wedding anniversaries. But they've been building their business together for 25 years—it was 1986 when they decided to build greenhouses on the Rempel family farm in Niagara-on-the-Lake, with a plan to specialize in roses.

See page 17

PENNY COLES NiagaraAdvance Debbie and Ron Rempel show off some of the roses available at their flower shop during the Christmas open house.



There is an appropriate silvery glow at Wine Country Roses—silver is the popular theme this Christmas, and it's a silver anniversary for the owners. Not a silver wedding anniversary—Debbie and

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Weddings, FTD arrangements growing part of cut flower business

From Page 16

In the intervening years, Ron has come to be known as the rose guy locally—although they also grow four acres of peonies on the farm to harvest in June, and their retail store sells much more than roses, the cut rose is their mainstay, and forms the bulk of their sales.

The selection of roses has changed over the years—there will always be the traditional favourites, especially the long-stemmed reds, says Ron, and he tries to stay away from the “fad” colours, but at the same time there are new varieties and new technologies that come along that help to improve the quality of the flowers and the efficiency of the greenhouse.

He grows

about 15 varieties, half of them red, and looks for the length of the stem, and size of the bud, and colours that won't be in fashion one year and gone the next, he says.

However, although the Rempels are known for their roses, the retail store opened six years ago offers much more—silver ornaments, a beautiful selection of Christmas arrangements for indoors and out, and a cooler full of cut flowers of all kinds.

The varieties that are needed for the store, wedding arrangements and the FTD portion of their business, are sourced locally whenever possible. “We're local growers, and we want to support others who are

local,” says Ron.

But they're not just growers—they are a florist shop with arrangers on staff, who cope with several weddings a week during the busy season, and often are called upon to step in when brides planning their destination weddings find something has gone awry with the flower arrangements.

It's not at all unusual, says Debbie, to get a call in a panic to do arrangements for the next day—she recalls one to be held at Konzmann Estate Winery down the road from Wine Country Roses when the roses arrived for bouquets and table centerpieces, all dead, and she and her staff stepped in

and saved the day.

With no weddings booked for the first week of January, Debbie says she'll have a bit of a break, closing the store for a week, and although they can't go anywhere—the greenhouses continue to need attention daily—they will be rejuvenated by some quiet time by the fire, and walks with their dog.

During the winter, the greenhouses are kept a little cooler, the roses slow down, and don't produce as many buds, but it's not only good for the Rempels to slow down, it's beneficial to the plants, says Ron.

And with bug strips—a relatively new pest control

system that introduces good bugs to eat the bad ones, there is no need for chemical spraying—less expensive, less work, and a healthier environment for the workers, says Ron.

But first, they look forward to their Christmas open house at Wine Country Roses on

Lakeshore Road between Niven Road and Garrison Village Drive this Friday and Saturday. It's an opportunity to greet regular customers and friends, and everyone who stops by will receive an ornament—silver, of course—in celebration of 25 years in business.

Linda Attioe, Psychotherapist



242 Mary Street, 2nd Floor
Box 63 • Niagara on the Lake
ON L0S 1J0

Tel: 905.468.0046
Fax: 905.468.8686

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BEST BUY - CORRECTION NOTICE

NEWSPAPER RETRACTION FOR THE
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Please be advised that the Xerox 380 4GB Control and
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Niagara-on-the-lake Church Directory

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Children's Program

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905-468-4044
www.graceunitedchurch.ca

**Village
Methodist Church**

St. David's Public School Meeting at 1344
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Sunday, December 4th
10:00am: Coffee Time • 10:30am: Worship Service
(childcare provided during service)
Shopping For A Senior • "I Don't Have Time"
Craig Alderton, Pastor • www.villageunitedchurch.ca

**ORCHARD PARK
Bible Church**

Sunday, December 4th
Sunday School for all ages 9:30 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Communion Service
Message by Pastor Jim Evans

St. Saviour's Anglican Church

General Brock Memorial
on the Niagara River in
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Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

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December Theme:
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Pastor Dave Tunikaitis Ministering
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9:30 am: 1st Service & CE
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10:30 am: Coffee Time; 11:30 am: 2nd Service
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10:45 am: Sunday School
Pastors David Brubacher
and Marty Miesner

905-468-3505
www.mennonitechurch.ca

Niagara United Mennonite Church
1414 St. David's Rd. • Niagara-on-the-lake

10:00 am: German Service
Message by Pastor
11:30 am: Worship Service
Message by John Tessen
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PENNY COLES Niagara Advance
Keith Wood is now a Defender of the Town, having made a donation to the NOTL War of 1812 Bicentennial Fundraising Committee. Presenting his plaque are Tony Chisholm and Lyle Williams.

Defenders of the Town recognized

Keith Wood is one of a growing number of individuals who can call themselves a Defender

of the Town. Wood, a staff accountant at Bridgman and Durksen

Chartered Accountants, has personally donated to the "Niagara on Fire" War of 1812 Bicentennial event to be held December 2013, at Market Square.

With an interest in military history, Wood donated because he wants to support the bicentennial celebrations, and also to encourage others to donate as the campaign gains momentum.

"At this point, I plan to donate \$500 a year for each of three bicentennial years."

He has also volunteered his accounting services to the NOTL War of 1812 Bicentennial Fundraising Committee.

A donation of \$100 or more will earn a Defender of the Town recognition award.

Mail your contribution to: Niagara-on-the-Lake, 1812 Bicentennial, P.O. Box 1863, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON, L0S 1J0. Make your cheque payable to the NOTL 1812 Bicentennial.

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Antipasti

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Mixed greens tossed with roasted red peppers, infomata olives, cherry tomatoes and alfalfa sprouts in balsamic vinaigrette. Topped with herbed garlic shrimp skewers.

Bruschetta Bread
Grilled Italian style bread served with marinated heirloom and vine ripened yellow tomatoes, drizzled with extra virgin garlic infused olive oil.

Calamari Fritti
Flour dusted calamari served with our signature pomodoro sauce.

Insalata Caprese
Vine ripened yellow and heirloom tomatoes with fresh mozzarella. Drizzled with balsamic reduction and pesto oil.

Primi Platti

Penne Alla Vodka
Penne pasta served with sautéed pancetta and scallops in a vodka rose sauce.

Secondi Platti Choice...

Salmonella Alla Griglia
8 oz. salmon filet topped with a lemon-lime butter. Accompanied with our potato of the day and daily vegetables.

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Rotary brings cheer with concert

Ten choirs will fill the Shaw Festival Theatre with the sounds and spirit of the Christmas season as the Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Club holds its 11th annual Christmas Choral Concert.

Choirs featured in the concert include the Queenston Ladies Choir, the Niagara Star Singers, the Niagara Bethany Handbell Choir, the Evergreen Singers, the Young Singers of Niagara and choirs from local churches in NOTL.

Tickets for this annual fundraiser are \$20 for adults and \$10 for stu-

dents.

Proceeds will benefit the program at Rotary House in Niagara Falls, Youth Unlimited in St. Catharines, Adrie's House of Hope in South Africa and Sleeping Children Around the World – providing bed kits for children in underdeveloped countries.

"This event really does define what our wonderful community is all about – bringing joy to the residents of Niagara through music," says Rotary president Ward Simpson.

"This year we welcome back some favourite choirs

and we'll see the addition of young singers from the community to carry on the tradition. This year's massed choir, with almost 200 voices, rejoicing on The Shaw's Festival Theatre stage promises to be the highlight of the Christmas season – don't miss it."

Tickets can be purchased at Simpson's Pharmasave on Niagara Stone Road, Simpson's Apothecary on King Street, at the Shaw Festival Box Office or from any NOTL Rotarian.

Tickets cannot be purchased at the door.



PENNY COLES Niagara Advance

Jennifer Greenwell of Bliss shows some of the toys donated that will go to needy children. In return for a donation of toys for kids of all ages or canned goods for the Salvation Army to distribute, the salon is offering 15 per cent off Aveda hair and facial products.



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Excellent family home across the street from the new Crossroads Elementary School. Open concept floor plan. Deep lot with lots of room to play. New windows and roof in '08. Move-in condition. MLS#20146448. Doug Snider.

16 WILBERFORCE AVE \$319,000



Chautauque cottage situated on a beautiful and rare wide lot (100' x 110.25'). Only a few doors from Lake and Park. Major renovation project or sever into two building lots. MLS 20148181 Victoria (Vicki) Bolduc

115 NIAGARA STREET \$429,000



A well designed open concept, custom built bungalow with views across vineyards. Desirable features include, hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings with skylights, gas fireplace, master ensuite, fully finished basement, and covered veranah. MLS 20146399. Tom Elliott and Viviane Elliott.

443 NASSAU STREET #4 \$214,500



Lovely bungalow townhome in desirable 'Matthews Glen', an easy walk to the lake, golf course and the town centre. Great year round retreat, retirement bungalow or investment property. MLS 20146006. Audrey Wright and Victoria (Vicki) Bolduc.

12 THE PROMENADE \$364,900



Great curb appeal featuring wrap around veranah, a perfect place to relax. 2270 sq. ft., 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms. Tasteful décor, many updates, move in condition. MLS20138807. Chris Bowron and Audrey Wright.

WATERFRONT ESTATE \$1,875,000



Large lakefront property with wonderful sunset views. Viviane Elliott and Thomas Elliott.

6 HAMPTON COURT \$695,000



2200 sq. ft. 2 bedroom 2 bathroom bungalow. Spacious principal rooms with main floor family room and sun room. Exceptional finish lot in old town Niagara on the Lake. Situated on an exceptional, private estate lot, on a small lot-of-the-lake of homes located two blocks from Lake Ontario and North America's oldest existing golf course. MLS 20141222. Chris Bowron and Audrey Wright.

445 GAGE STREET \$895,000



An outstanding custom built bungalow in a prestigious neighbourhood of the old town surrounded by impressive new homes. There is a blend of traditional details, tasteful decor and a desirable floor plan. MLS 20144406. Viviane Elliott and Thomas Elliott.

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Zoey goes to school



PENNY COLES Niagara Advance

Zoey of Benchview Farms visits Niagara Nursery School with Sam and Jasmine Darta. Youngsters Kenney Bartel, Connor Mori, Aine O'Neill and Ella Smith enjoyed petting their visitor.



New Year's Eve Bash
at
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Prime Rib and Seafood Buffet
\$80 per person \$150 per couple

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6:30pm - 1 am

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SARAH FERGUSON Niagara Advance

Sean Simpson shows the \$5 counterfeit bills he has received, and encourages others to check their bills. Questions about how to detect counterfeit bills should be directed to a bank.

Pharmacist warns of \$5 counterfeit bills

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

Pharmacist Sean Simpson has had three \$5 bills at his King Street drug store in the last month—and he has been handed one himself as change, he thinks most likely at a local coffee shop or bakery.

If he has four counterfeit bills, he's wondering how many others are circulating. "I think retailers need to be warned to be on the lookout for these bills," he says.

He knows the customer who had one of the fake bills, and knows that wasn't the origin—so she must have been given one as

change as well.

He has reported the bills to the Niagara Regional Police, but at this point is more concerned about warning other shop keepers and individuals to be on the look-out for the fakes.

"If everyone looked in their wallets, it might turn out there are a few of them around. I'd be curious to know how many."

Real bills will have a metallic holographic stripe to the left of the portrait, with small maple leaves and numbers that match the amount of the currency in the background. There is also a watermark portrait in the white space to the right

of the portrait on the front of each bill.

Sgt. Paul Spiridi of the Niagara Regional Police fraud unit says he has had just five reports of counterfeit bills from NOTL since

August—one \$5, a couple of \$10s, a \$50 and \$100.

When banks find counterfeiters, they notify the police, but it can take a while to go through the process, he said.

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Pumpphouse show and sale part of Rotary Club Holiday House Tour

See what's for sale and find a creative Christmas present

The Niagara Pumpphouse will be running its Fifth Annual Premier and Sale of Original Work, Artful Treasures Friday and Saturday, in concert with the Rotary Club Holiday House Tour.

Come and see what's for sale Dec. 2 and 3 and find a nice Christmas present for someone special while going through the beautiful houses on the tour.

The regular courses begin the week of Jan. 9, but please sign up before Dec. 31.

Among the new courses offered will be Watercolour—The Next



@the Pumpphouse
Mike Smith

Step, by Susan Wintrop on Monday afternoons starting Jan. 9 at 1 p.m.

This session is for the more experienced "beginner" who will choose the subjects of their particular interest and be guided through several exercises to decide on what the best approach and techniques, topics of composition, colour mixing and

new devices will be studied. The course fees are \$135 for members, \$175 for non-members.

Yimiel Yep will be returning with Creative Hands In Clay. On Monday afternoons at 2 p.m. beginning Jan. 9, Yimiel will teach hand-building and decorating techniques to make simple objects as well as helping more experienced students make their own functional or sculptural projects and practise with the wheel. This classes is capped at eight people. Fees are \$118 for members, \$158 for non-members and a \$25 for materials.

Basics of Matting And Framing by David Kennedy on Tuesday evenings, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. beginning Jan. 10. David will teach the fundamentals of matting and framing as well as

design principals and resources. Bring a 5x7 or 8x10 project and take it home framed and ready for displaying by the end of the series. This is a four-week course held at the Kennedy Gallery, 387 Ontario St., in St. Catharines. Fees are \$75 for member and \$120 for non-members plus there is a material fee of \$45.

Ester Mikolajewski will be running her popular youth classes for seven to 12-year-olds on Saturday mornings. Esther's students will study Canadian artists and learn about their contributions to the art scene. The fees will be \$120 for members and \$160 for non-members.

Magdalena Titian will be having a workshop entitled Wet On Wet Watercolour. Magdalena wants her students to go beyond their "safety nets" of the past and

enjoy wet-on-wet painting. She says sometimes the finished product bears no resemblance to the source material and students will discover things not seen, but are the students own creation. The workshop will be Saturday January 14 starting at 9 am to running to 3 pm. Fees are \$80 for members, and \$120 for non-members.

Jim Kerr will be running a workshop entitled "Winter Wonderland". With shadows and snow of all colours, and using a canvas of 10 x 20 as well as working from sketches, can you finish an acrylic painting in 2 days? Come Saturday Jan. 21 and Sunday Jan. 22 to find out. Time is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and fees are \$160 for members and \$200 for non-members.

Joel Therrien will be running a Digital

Photography workshop for beginners Saturday, Jan. 28 , 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Learn how fun and simple moving to a digital camera can be, how to use one and get the most out of all of its features. Bring your camera. Fees are \$80 for members and \$120 for non-members.

The Niagara Pumpphouse has a Facebook page and is on Twitter. The Facebook page is Niagara Pumpphouse Visual Art Centre and Twitter is Niagara PH. Link to our sites for the latest news about the Pumpphouse!

The Pumpphouse is at 247 Ricardo St. Call 905 468-5455, e-mail office@niagarapumpphouse.ca or visit www.niagarapumpphouse.ca. The Pumpphouse is open 12 to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday, 1 to 4 p.m. on weekends and admission is free.

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Did you know baby boomers are redefining living spaces for retired and aging people? Many boomers who continue to work on a flexible basis after "retirement" require home offices. Technology enables work from a remote setting, so urban and non-urban designs are converging. An evolving family structure might bring adult children and/or aging parents under the boomers' roof, triggering unique demands for privacy. Streamlined design and décor principles are being applied to create safe and beautiful environments for aging inhabitants. For more, read "Unassisted Living: Ageless Homes for Later Life" by Chapman and Rosenfield.

Superbly Situated Executive Home



412 Johnson Street \$597,000
Sited in a desirable part of town, this 2-story executive home balances a contemporary open plan with separate formal space. More than 3,000 sq ft of living space with walk-outs to mature, landscaped gardens.

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240 Dorchester Street \$819,900
Under the privacy provided by mature trees, sits this 4 bedroom, 5-bathroom home. Updated kitchen and spacious principal rooms. Four fireplaces. Salt-water, kidney-shaped pool.

Elegance and Ease



451 Gage Street \$935,000
Set in a desirable area, this 3,000 sq ft home offers a well-designed plan with great flow. Formal living and dining, large master suite, oversized kitchen and many walk-outs to the garden.

Beautiful Old Town Renovation



126 Johnson Street \$945,000
This circa 1868 Georgian has been extensively renovated. Two-storey addition features a large kitchen/morning room and master bedroom suite. Studio with bath above the garage. Pool.

Beauty + Simplicity



357 Gage Street \$899,000
This architect-designed residence has a casual yet elegant feel. It features 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, a contemporary kitchen, separate dining room, gorgeous finishes and much more.

A Gorgeous Georgian



58 Johnson Street \$1,375,000
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Saluting Niagara-on-the-Lake Volunteers 2011



The 2011 Annual Volunteer Recognition Awards, presented by Lord Mayor Dave Eke and Parks and Recreation Director Clive Bulst on behalf of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Niagara Advance, go to Mora Richmond, George Snider, Scott Ruttan, Cathy Wickabrod, Melody Minhorst, Helen Dawson, Dawn Gula, Jim Smith, Norah King and Will Walker.

16th Annual Volunteer Recognition Awards

The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

Our community is very fortunate to have countless volunteers who give so generously of their time to community relations and activities. Congratulations to all the recipients of the Volunteer Recognition Awards. Your endless charitable acts of goodwill reiterate the fact that we live in a town of caring people who give unselfishly to the well-being of the community.

Best wishes, Lord Mayor Dave Eke and Members of Council



Saluting Niagara-on-the-Lake Volunteers 2011



Historical Contribution & Volunteer of the Year...

Could there be anybody in town who has not heard our cenotaph's clock tower bell chime out the hour? Not likely, but how many know that we have one person in town to thank for that hourly reminder? It was more than 25 years ago that Jim Smith, who had fond memories of the bell from his childhood, began tinkering to see if he could resurrect the ringing that had stopped decades ago—and in the days when the bell did work, it was unreliable. After successfully repairing it in the mid 1980s, at his own expense, he took on its regular maintenance, which he continues to this day. He has even installed a timer that ensures the bell does not ring and create a disturbance during Shaw Festival performances. It is Jim's regular checks and servicing that ensure the clock and bell, now with an international reputation as a Queen Street landmark, continue to work reliably at no cost to the Royal Canadian Legion. For this long-standing behind-the-scenes volunteer work, Jim Smith is receiving this year's award for his contribution to the history of our town, and the Peggy Anderson Award for his outstanding contribution to our community.

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Working with youth...



At a time when other youth organizations are struggling to maintain their membership, the local squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets has grown to become the largest non-athletic

youth organization in town, thanks to squadron chairman Scott Ruttan. But building membership is not his only accomplishment – he is also responsible for ensuring the cadets have a place to meet, manages the financial resources of the squadron, co-ordinates activities, has introduced a twice-annual fundraising bottle collection, and has organized Cadet displays at the Virgil Stampede to attract more youngsters. For his dedication to this worthwhile organization, and for the enormous respect he has earned from the cadets and all those with whom he works, Scott has earned this year's award for working with youth.

Contribution to culture...



Mora Richmond has taken on the volunteer task of supervising the operation of the Queenston Library. For the last five years, she has ensured the library continues to have

an excellent selection of current titles, and her knowledge is much appreciated by regular patrons, who count on her to supply helpful suggestions when they are looking for something to read. But beyond that, in addition to keeping the library space and books in order, there is always coffee or tea ready, a plate of cookies and chairs set near the fireplace for those who drop in for a chat, and a very welcoming family atmosphere. Mora even occasionally drives to the homes of elderly regulars to give them a lift to the library and make sure nobody misses out on a visit. The successful continued operation of the Queenston Library is due to the conscientious and dedicated efforts of Mora Richmond, and for that we are recognizing her for her contributions to the culture of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Contribution to safety...



The Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Policing Committee, which has been looking after the safety of town residents for more than 20 years, has

Catharine Wickabrod to thank for jump-starting some new initiatives and re-energizing some of its longstanding programs. When the committee agrees something needs to be done, Cathy can be counted on to take the lead. She has most recently been involved in a program new to the local committee, encouraging motorists to lock their cars and hide their valuables out of sight. She has taken on the task of bringing representatives from Mothers Against Drunk Driving to town to talk about their work. She has helped bring new energy to the Bike Safety Rodeo, a program the committee has had on its agenda for at least 20 years, and she will ensure the committee has a presence in this year's Christmas Parade. When there is work to do, Cathy never says no. For this reason, she is this year's recipient of the volunteer award for her contribution to safety.

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Working with Needy or Disabled...



Helen Dawson has volunteered with the Niagara-on-the-Lake Hospital Auxiliary for more than 60 years, and is the longest serving active member of the auxiliary. Over the decades, she has

served two terms as President, has held virtually every position on the Executive, and served on the Hospital Board of Governors for 15 years. She has made and mended hospital gowns, made more than her share of sandwiches over the years, and she has likely set up more harvest balls and organized more tea parties than anyone in Niagara-on-the-Lake to help raise money for the auxiliary. Her gifts of time and dedication to the auxiliary help make patients' stays in the hospital a little easier during a difficult time. More than six decades of assisting the sick during their stay at our local hospital have earned Helen this year's volunteer recognition award for working with those in need.

Volunteers Under 21...



Young people today live such busy lives there often isn't time for volunteerism, but Melody Minhorst makes sure she finds time. She first became involved with scouting when she joined the St. Davids troop, but has in recent years moved on to take a leadership role. From the beginning, she was a hard worker who also showed kindness to others in the group. She assists with games, crafts and badges, striving for excellence, and is often sought out for her skills and creativity. She is an outstanding assistant as a cub scout leader, shows initiative and diligence, and has earned the respect of the cubs and their parents. Her devotion to scouting, her pleasant and positive attitude and her consistent, outstanding efforts have earned her this year's award for a young volunteer.

Sports and Recreation...



There are many in our community who help out in minor sports leagues so that their children and others will have a rewarding experience while participating in sports. But Dawn Gula, a busy mother with a full-time job, helps out in not just one community sports league, but three. She has been involved in soccer, softball and hockey, coaching, and serving on the boards. She has been known to leave a soccer meeting at the arena board room to get to a hockey meeting, and on registration days, will split herself between two sports. Organized sport takes a lot of commitment from the dedicated individuals who do the organizing, but to be so actively involved in three of the busiest minor sports leagues takes a very special volunteer, earning Dawn this year's award for sports and recreation.

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Thank you for all your hard work
and dedication
to NOTL Minor Hockey.

Saluting Niagara-on-the-Lake Volunteers 2011

Community Events...



This year, under the leadership of Will Walker, Niagara-on-the-Lake held its 13th annual golf classic, one of the most successful fundraising community events this town enjoys. Will joined the organizing committee in 2003,

and has chaired it since 2007. To date, the popular golf classic has raised more than \$300,000 for many good causes such as the Meridian Credit Union Arena, Red Roof Retreat, Wellspring Niagara, St Davids Scouts and the Niagara Pool.

This year's tournament raised the second highest amount of all the tournaments, \$26,000, with the proceeds going to the new Community Centre. More than 144 golfers attended annually, and the tournament is bid-strictly sold out. It is a day-long event, beginning with registration and ending, after a great day of golf, with a dinner at the community centre. But it takes many months of organizing this important, entertaining and successful fundraiser, earning Will Walker this year's volunteer recognition award for community events.

Working With Seniors...



Norah King has been volunteering at Chateau Gardens for about 30 years – so long that nobody can remember exactly how many years she has been going to the seniors home once

or twice a month, to ensure those who wish to attend the Catholic mass are able to do so. Norah, who will turn 90 herself this week, helps transport residents in wheelchairs to mass, helps with the service and then makes sure they are returned to their rooms. Through the Catholic Women's League, she also helps to recognize residents on their birthdays and Christmas, with cake and small gifts. Those are just a few of the many little kindnesses she shows visitors at Chateau Gardens. Norah has also volunteered for the Canadian Cancer Society, and the St. Vincent de Paul Peach Festival for many years, but it is her work with seniors at Chateau Gardens that is earning her this award.

Service Clubs...



George Snider joined the St. Davids Lions Club in 1979, and can still, more than 20 years later, be found every July spinning that popular grocery wheel at the Lions Club Carnival. But it isn't just the spinning – it takes a week before the carnival to help fill 300 hushel baskets with all the goodies that are given away, and George is always there to do his part. There are other duties he fills at the club, including selling tickets for the annual raffle, a major fundraiser at the carnival, and of course he also finds time to help out as an active member of Grace United Church and at the annual Virgil Stampede. George is one of those unsung heroes that quietly goes about doing whatever needs to be done, giving back to his community and earning him a volunteer recognition award for his work with a local service club.



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Winning on and off the golf course

Golfer Billy Simkin represents NOTL Golf Club in Canadian PGA Club Professional Championships.

Sarah Ferguson
Niagara Advance

After placing 90th out of 108 players in the Canadian PGA Club Professional Championships, Billy Simkin says he's living the dream.

The head professional and manager of golf opera-

tions represented the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club at the tournament held in Florida last week.

Simkin was also one of 20 people who represented Ontario in the tournament. In order to qualify for the tournament, Simkin participated in three Ontario PGA events including the Callaway Ontario PGA Fall Championships at the St. Catharines Country Club where he tied for 23rd place.

"I finished high enough in my category and I was given the chance to go to the tournament in Florida."

It was open to head pro-

fessionals and head teaching professionals, says Simkin.

"I played pretty well, but I struggled hitting the putts."

Simkin says the chance to participate on a professional level was an important learning experience for him because he had the opportunity to watch and learn from other players on the links.

"I guess it just wasn't my week, but overall it was a really positive experience."

He says he "isn't far off" from having "really good" results on the golf course.

"It's just a matter of hav-

ing a couple more putts and I feel I am right there."

The golfer says being able to play on a national level instead of just a provincial level adds "a lot of confidence."

And the opportunity to play golf and work for the golf course in Niagara-on-the-Lake is an added bonus.

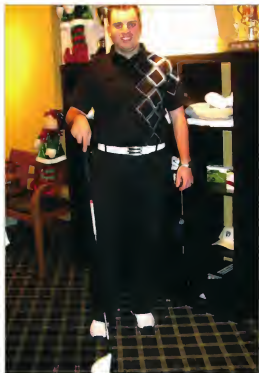
Simkin says he picked up his first set of clubs when he was 11 years old—and since then, golf has become his job and one of his passions.

"I always loved playing the game. As I got older I started to get better at it. And golf just ended up being my job. It's a passion that I have."

For now, Simkin says he will keep improving his game and looking for opportunities to play.

He is also looking forward to the day he gets to take his nine-month-old son Avery out on the links.

"He's already got a set of clubs waiting for him when he is ready."



SARAH FERGUSON Niagara Advance

Billy Simkin represented the NOTL Golf Club in the Canadian PGA Club Professional Championships last week. Simkin says it was an opportunity to compete nationally and hone his skills on the links.

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All-Green Irrigation peewees win 5-4

In peewee action of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Minor Hockey Association, Scott Falk led the All-Green Irrigation Peewee Wolves to a 5-4 comeback win at the Meridian Credit Union Arena.

After scoring the only goal in the first period, a fire-wagon second period saw Welland with a 4-3 advantage.

Rory Hellwig's second goal of the game brought the Wolves level and Ty Reschke closed the scoring to give the Wolves the win.

Brennan Dykstra continued to improve, making some nice passes and dishing out some hits.

Falk finished the game with two goals and two assists.

Hellwig scored two goals, Reschke scored a goal and collected one assist.

Single assists were earned by Dykstra and Cam Brant.

During the Wolves' next game, Dykstra scored his first goal of the year in a 3-3 tie against Welland.

It was a very tight game as these two teams completed a home-and-home series. Falk continued his stellar play, twice giving the Wolves a one goal lead, only to see Welland tie the game.

Dykstra's first goal of the year came with two minutes and 17 seconds remaining on the clock, and almost turned out to be the winning goal of the game, but Welland scored with just 10 seconds remaining to earn the tie.

Alexandria Carr and Caleb Lavoie each earned two assists while Dykstra and Graeme Lett collected one each.

Investors Group Wolves earn win over Welland

In peewee action of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Minor Hockey Association, the Investors Group Wolves stormed back on Sunday to defeat Welland 4-3.

Playing with only nine skaters, the Wolves displayed great passing, forechecking and backchecking.

Strong defensive play by Taylor Galloway, Haiden O'Toole and Justin Wornald limited Welland to only a handful of shots on goal-

der Nicholas Andrusiw who recorded his second shut-out of the season.

Josh Bush, who was moved from defence to play forward, scored two goals and earned one assist.

Justin Wornald added the third goal. Ben Werner earned assists on all three goals.

The win gives Investors a 7-3-3 record and puts them into fourth place in league standings.

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In atom action of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Minor Hockey Association, the Rotary Club played against Brox Company this week and the game ended in a well-battled tie. Joshua Kairo of Rotary Club Wolves chased Ethan Lepp of Brox Company on the ice.

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Health/Disability A200

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savings on all in stock
products. Call Silver
Cross. 905-866-4125

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Miscellaneous A230

CARPETS: I have
over 200,000 square
feet of new Stein-
master and 100%
nylon carpet, will
do living and dining
room for \$350. Free
insolating carpet, pad
(see ad.) Steve
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CHRISTMAS: a almost
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Outlet, highest quality
bedding, towels and
linens at wholesale
prices. Niagara Falls,
7100 Morris St. (O-
chester). Mon-Fri. 10-
5a. Sat. 10a. Sun. 11a-5p

Seasonal Greetings A040

HUGE CHRISTMAS TREE SALE
Choose your artificial Christmas Tree NOW while
selection is at its best and pick up after December 30.
Save 30% to 50% off all decorator style &
traditional Christmas trees, 2' to 8' heights starting
at only \$44.50. Royal Portia & Garden Centre 7
Village is offering you the opportunity to pre-book your
Christmas Tree from the largest selection of
high quality trees with that "real" look & texture.
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30,000 hour life expectancy! Royal Portia &
Garden Centre, 1818 Niagara Stone Road, (near
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toll-free 1-800-361-1111 or www.royalportia.ca
905-468-2181 or Toll Free 1-888-578-8228

Wanted to Buy A280

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Pets Agriculture A280

Lost & Found A320

FOUND Female 12 wk
old kitten, brown &
white. McKays Rd area.
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Pet Services A350

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trainer for \$350. Free
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or 418-257-3418
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RECREATIONAL VEHICLES A270

Rentals

Open Houses A280

STONE ROAD VILLAGE
a 55+ retirement
residence, located at
2016 Niagara Stone
Road, NOTL is now
under construction.
The 78-unit life lease
building will open in the
Fall of 2012. Call
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Commercial/Industrial A530

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15 Albert St. W.
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office, 3,000 sq ft
available. Office, two
separate offices, on
site parking, large
reception area, 2nd
kitchen, fully furnished,
222-5544, cell
905-385-2220

Vacation Properties A590

MYRTLE BEACH
2 bed 2 bath
located in Magnolia
Place, 15 miles to
beach and centrally
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Weekly \$580.00 or
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Professional Services A590

NOTES
I have experience with
conventional
oven, automated mixer and processor.
2.5 years experience in the industry, and
Period Apprentices.
Dishes involve: problem solving, decision
making, critical thinking.
Full-time: 40hours/week - \$120/hrs
Please email resume to: willcaldwell@bainett.ca
or 905-468-6814

Apartments Furnished A600

KING ST. NOTL 2
Bdrm. Short-term, 1
bowl, private, semi-
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TV. 716-754-7170

Commercial/Industrial A620

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Houses A650

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street view, \$1100
utilities. 905-929-8476

Rooms A600

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cable/phone, 1 level.
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Vacation Travel A700

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Employment Education

General Employment A800

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General Employment A800

LOCAL BAKE SHOP is looking for a Pastry
A. Broad Baked, specializing in Bread & Pastry.
able to prepare and bake, dough's, batter and
prepare special order.
• Knowledge of English language a necessity,
(essential to speak, read & write).
• Must have experience using conventional
oven, automated mixer and processor.
• 2.5 years experience in the industry, and
Period Apprentices.
• Duties involve: problem solving, decision
making, critical thinking.
• Full-time: 40hours/week - \$120/hrs
Please email resume to: willcaldwell@bainett.ca
or 905-468-6814

General Employment A800

Daycare/Housekeeping/
Meals, 6+ hours per wk
1:30pm, Grimsby, Mead
Cov. Call 905-481-0041

General Employment A800

Now Hiring
Experienced
Industrial
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Uniforms, shirts, pants
covers, perkins and
various cloth. Contact,
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Coming Events A940

FOOD FOR THE HOLIDAYS
PREORDER - Tortas & Chicken Casseroles by
December 4, 2011. 905-828-4145, \$15

QUEENSTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Queenston Library, 38 Queenston St.

General Employment A800

WINA & BEA available
Lions Club Hall, 1462 York Road, St. Davids

Set. Dec. 3, 2011 6:30 pm
BETHANY MENNONITE
SR. YOUTH
TURKEY SUPPER
Bethany Mennonite Church
572 East/West Line
Tickets: Adults - \$15 Children - \$8
905-468-3036 or at the door

General Employment A800

SUBWAY NOW HIRING
Day/Night Shifts
2 Sandwich Artists
2 Sr. Sandwich Artists
1 Assistant Manager.
Preferably mature &
experienced in fast food
business. Must have
own transportation.
Please apply with
Resume & 3 Refs by
mail or in person by 345
Main St., PO Box 416
OR, ON L0K 1G0, or
3643 Postage Rd. N.F.
ON, L3A 2G6, or email
allthelikes@hotmail.com

General Employment A800

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General Employment A800

DEC. 01st @ 4:30 - 7pm
To Be Held Every
2nd Friday of the Month
St. Davids Lions Club
SPAGHETTI DINNER
Adults - \$6, Kids 6-10 - \$4
3 & under - Free
Win & Be available
Lions Club Hall, 1462 York Road, St. Davids

General Employment A800

The Niagara Star Singers present
"Welcome the Holidays!"
an entertaining Christmas show program
Sunday, December 4, 2011 3 pm & 7 pm
Bathurst Ballroom, Niagara-on-the-Lake
Special guests - Queenston Ladies Choir
Net proceeds to R.A.V.T.
\$15/dolls. \$10/dolls available at the door or
info@niagarastarsingers.com

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Computer/ IT A820

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Drivers A830

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EDUCATION

Notices
Community Services

Coming Events

Saturday, December 3 • 9:00 am - Noon
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
FESTIVE FARE
Come Enjoy our One-of-a-kind Market & Famous Tea Room! Homemade scones with St. Andrew's delicious jams.
Christmas Bake Sale including meat pies.

WINTERS STUDIES LECTURES
At the Pillar & Post Jan. 11 & Jan. 18 at 10:30 a.m.
Frederic, Lord Leighton and An Independent Scholar in London.
For more information call Joan Draper 905-468-7885 or Email jdraper@vaxxine.com.

CHRISTMAS AT MCFARLAND HOUSE: December 2 through December 4
McFarland House will be hosting an OPEN HOUSE for the holidays! Decorated in a lush 19th Century Christmas, designed by and courtesy of the Garden Club of Niagara. Open 10 to 4 each day. Friday and Saturday we see PART OF THE ROTARY HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR. Tickets are \$25 and include admission to 14 wonderful properties, please call 905-361-3001 or purchase them at McFarland House when you arrive. On Sunday December 4 we will host our own Christmas event. Single admission for the House is \$6. All three days Homemade Christmas cookies, rich traditional hot chocolate, and historic mulled apple cider will delight your senses and tempt your palate while you lose the property. And you have missed your last chance to join us for Tea! We will also be reopening our Conservatory Tea Room on Saturday December 10 and Sunday December 11th. This will be the first time that McFarland House has been open for Afternoon Tea during the Christmas season! Reservations recommended. Please call 905-468-3322 or write to us at mcfarland@niagaraparks.com for more information. 15827 Niagara Parkway, NOTL. www.niagaraparks.com

Health & Wellness A946

DEHEALTHY BAKER offering a fabulous selection of tasty 100% gluten-free baked products. Now taking customzied Christmas orders. Christmas specials: ALL Pies \$10. \$1. off Pumpkin Green Cheese Roll when you mention this ad. Watch for our new Niagara-on-the-Lake location opening soon. 3800 Main St. Chippawa Niagara Falls. Tue-Sat. 9am - 5pm. 905-468-8500.

LOOK

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Garage Sales G100

What a goal!
Saturday & Sunday December 3rd & 4th, 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm
INDOOR ESTATE SALE
28 Pridmore Street Christmas Gifts, China, glass, tea-cups, collection, furniture.

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"Covering The Penisulas" I only paint I do it well.
25 years, trust, reliable, previous, excellent. Call Robert @ 905-722-2332

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Health & Wellness \$400

BIRTHDAY PARTIES & More. Visit our website or call and book your event with us! 226-520-7233. Little BFF Drea Spa. Once upon a Twinkie, Meri Lab Studio, Sigaraman, Today & Sweet Souique, How Sweet It is Candy Buffets, 169 East Main Street and www.tbtspe.com

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Business/ Franchise Opps \$380

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Canadian Diabetes Association

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Research Based diabetes

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Announcements

Graduations CONGRATULATIONS!



LEE LOEWEN

on graduating from HUMBER COLLEGE with Honours and Academic Excellence, receiving your Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Design and Applied Technology.

Lee has accepted a position with an Industrial Design company in Scarborough.

We wish you much Success!

Lots of Love, from Mimi & Papi,
Sheila and Shannon



P.S. Happy Birthday!

Announcements/greetings

CONGRATULATIONS

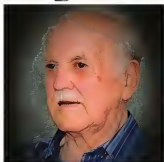
HEIDI POLTL

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for receiving her
Prime Minister Award
Teaching Excellence
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From everyone in
Ms. Ilona's Dance School

Deaths



FERGUSON, D. Randolph — Peacefully, at the St. Catharines General Hospital on November 27, 2011 at the age of 87. Beloved husband of Margaret (Ansel) for 63 years. Survived by their son John Ferguson (Nancy), granddaughter Amanda and grandson Jeffrey, all of B.C. Predeceased by their son David Ferguson (1974). Randolph was the last of five boys and two girls, living in McNab all his life except for two and a half years while serving in Italy during WWII. He was an electrician for the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority, retiring in 1983. Cremation has taken place. A "Gathering of Friends" will be held at MORGAN FUNERAL HOME, 415 Regent Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake, on Saturday, December 3, where a short tribute will begin at 2 pm with visitation continuing until 4 pm. In lieu of flowers, donations to Historica-Dominion Institute "The Memory Project" would be appreciated. Online guest register: www.morganfuneral.com

A Memorial Donation has been made to

Morgan
Community Fund

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As near and dear as yesterday*

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From left to right, the Niagara Rangers Novice girls Maddie Caughill, Stella Wiens, Chiara van der Zalm holding the ball, Olivia Krieger and Kalynda Harrington face the Grimsby Grizzlies.

Novice Rangers play strong

Novice Rangers looking for two players to add to the roster.

In novice action of Rangers basketball, the girls played their first home game against the Grimsby Grizzlies.

Although the Rangers faced an older team and lost 42-14, and were short

players, the Rangers held their own.

Scorers for the Rangers were Rosie Tait with four points, and Olivia Krieger, Maddie Caughill, Lexi Buis, Chiara van der Zalm and Indy de Groot with two points each.

Outstanding defensive play by Logan Brown. Fantastic rebounding by Tait.

Good defence from Felicia Miele and excellent hustle by Kalynda Harrington and Stella Wiens kept the Rangers strong.

The Rangers began as a house league last year and have been working hard to advance to the rep team

level for this season.

The novice Rangers are currently looking for two players to complete their team, says Jennifer Caughill, head coach of the team.

She says the team needs the two players to qualify for tournaments.

Any girls in Grades 3 and 4 that would like to join the Rangers should keep in mind that no experience is necessary—it's all about equal play, so regardless of ability, all of the girls play equally and learn to rely on each other.

Interested players can contact Caughill at 468-9408 or winnersdaycamps@cogeco.ca.

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INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Canada

4 FISHER DRIVE



Only 6 years young this custom built bungalow features open concept living, Mediterranean inspired design and upgraded kitchen. Conveniently located close to Vigil's amenities and steps to Centennial Park. Offered at \$379,900. Call Anna and Jaime da Silva* at 905-468-0001.

6 KARSAM COURT



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642 RYE STREET



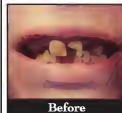
Very tastefully decorated home on a large lot in a quiet part of town. A modern home with updated kitchen and main floor den that could be a bedroom. Offered at \$620,000. Call Gary Snider** 905-988-2205.

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After

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Stunning 4,700 sqft Victorian on a 150' X 250' lot. Custom-built w/ the best materials. Spacious 11-room home w/ 4 bdrms, 3 washrms, gourmet kitchen, 2 fireplaces, M/F family rm, den, sep. dining rm, games rm, library, sunroom O/L the 1/2 heated swimming pool & heated sep. workshop. Superb landscaping w/ 2 Koi ponds. **\$548,888**



ADULT LIFESTYLE COMMUNITY, WELLAND

Wonderful 2+1 bdrm home loaded w/ upgrades. Premium lot (60'x131') backing onto renowned Lochness Links Golf Course w/ spectacular views. Lix. m. din. m. kitchen, master bdrm w/ ensuite, 2nd bdrm & washrm + laundry all on main level. Guest bdrm or den w/ a full ensuite bath, rec. rm, on lower lvl w/ w/c to patio. **\$428,888**



PRIVATE HAMLET - NIAGARA-on-the-LAKE

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Freehold bungalow townhome w/ loft, 1,680 sqft - finished lower lvl w/ a guest bdrm, large washrm, rec. m. & a w/c to the backyard w/ no homes behind. Also a large work room for doing crafts. Lots of closets & storage space. A 1 move-in condition for doing crafts. In an area w/ lots of things to do, places to go and friendly neighbours. **\$278,888**



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This 20 year old business has lots of potential for growth. It is the only Professional Battering Cage within a 50 mile radius. It's a fabulous well planned Driving Range and the Town's Bylaws will allow adding anything else related to the practicing any sport. This is an all cash business. Asking only **\$168,888**

The above properties and others are shown on my website: www.LamontLeone.com

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Season's Greetings



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